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on farm mortgages
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Speaking of conditions in Tuscola county a citizen says: "We think a single year of open bars, following four years of local option has been sufficient to prove to all fair-minded people, that even though imperfectly administered, the local option law prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors, was vastly better than conditions experienced the past year."

Farmers Should Go into Politics.

[From American Economist.]

The resentment by American farmers of Free-Trade Tariff legislation that lowers the boom price of practically every farm product, without any material decrease in the price paid by the ultimate consumer, is indicated in the following editorial expression in Up-to-Date Farming, an ably conducted farm journal of Indianapolis:

These conditions bring to the front another demand for farmers to get together in a nation-wide organization so they can demand and compel the repeal of the Tariff law, as it injuriously affects agriculture. We do not mean that the farmers' organization should go into politics, but farmers must be heard in the councils of the nation and they must put themselves in a position to back up their demands by a united front across the whole country. While ours is supposed to be a government of the people, by the people, for the people, we fear it will never be that again until the farmers are organized for business and then, with their ability to co-operate, make their united demands for the repeal of bad laws and the enactment of good ones for agriculture. And any law that is good for agriculture and the farmers must be good for all the people.

The conclusion is just as true, with the additional stipulation that any law that is good for the farmers and the wage-earners as well must be good for all the people. It is upon the millions of wage and salary earners in this country and their families that American farmers must chiefly depend for their market. Wherefore we would amend the suggestion of Up-to-Date Farming and urge that the farmers do go into politics and thereby compel the enactment of a Protective Tariff law. It is every man's privilege and duty to go into politics to improve his own condition and the condition of the country as a whole.

Yes, She Probably Would.

"Does anybody ever kick you in the nose?" said the ass.

"Aye, does there," said the spider; "you and your like that are always walking on me, or lying down on me, or running over me."

"Well, why don't you stay on the wall?" said the ass.

"Sure, my wife is there," replied the spider.

"What's the harm in that?" said the ass.

"She'd eat me," said the spider.

"Have you got a wife yourself now?"

"I have not," said the ass. "I wish I had."

"That's a bachelor's talk," said the spider; "all the same, we can't keep away from them."

"If your wife was an ass she wouldn't eat you," said the ass.

"She'd be doing something else, then," replied the spider.—From James Stephens "The Crock of Gold."

Satisfied.

But that it would cost too much to print it, the landlady would probably include this story in her advertisement every time she needs boarders.

In answer to an advertisement that was published before the story happened, she received as "paying guests" a lady and gentleman and little girl who had come down in the world.

Their descent was comparatively recent, and the lady still mourned departed grandeur. She had hopes of getting some of it back, however, and so that end she instructed the little girl to pray, on the night of their arrival at the boarding house, that God would soon give them their pretty home again.

The child opened her eyes and looked around the comfortably furnished room.

"I don't see anything the matter with this," she said.

Both a Privilege and Duty to Vote.

Next Monday the voters of the county who go to the polls will decide whether Shiawassee county shall retain the prestige it now enjoys by reason of its having adopted local option two and four years ago, or whether a backward step shall be taken by returning to the conditions which prevailed before the saloons were voted out of the county. The man who neglects to vote for any reason save that of sickness or absence from home, is derelict both to the privilege which he enjoys as a citizen and to the duty which he owes to the community in which he resides. No man in the county resides a sufficient distance from the polling place in his precinct so that weather conditions or bad roads should keep him from exercising the privilege of voting and of fulfilling, the highest duty of citizenship by voting to protect those who are not permitted to share equally with him the responsibilities of citizenship. The voter who believes in local option and fails to go to the polls, rain or shine, casts half a vote for the defeat of the cause. The vote in the cities and villages, which is usually favorable to the "wets," will be polled practically to a man. The vote of the rural communities, in which local option sentiment is dominant, must be polled to overcome this lead and to ensure victory for the homes, the mothers, the wives and children of the county. Voters of Shiawassee, prove yourselves men by doing your full duty—voting—and vote so that you will have no reason to regret your action. This done, local option will be adopted for another two years by a greater majority than at any time in the past. VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! Do not let a voter stay away from the polls. VOTE YES.

Local Option Essays.

(Continued from page one.)

county was eligible to enter the contest. All were given the subject "How Does Local Option Benefit Shiawassee County?"

The essays receiving the first four prizes follow:

No. 26, first prize.

How Does Local Option Benefit Shiawassee County?

Local Option benefits Shiawassee county in at least two ways, financially and morally.

According to statistics, \$25,287 less has been spent during the last four years, on unnecessary court proceedings and in caring for prisoners, confined in the county jail; due largely to the fact that the number of drunken men confined in the jail has decreased during that time from 92 to 11; and the total number of prisoners has decreased from 184 to 52. Trade has also increased and bills have been paid more regularly; therefore the business men of the county are especially anxious for local option to continue.

Local option lessens the poverty, misery and degradation of the homes of men who were formerly drunkards. The open saloon no longer tempts young men to the downward path. Local option helps them to resist temptation and to do the right. Moreover, it is said that there have been fewer divorce cases during the four years of local option than during the previous four years of the open saloons. Therefore the rising generation is being reared under better influences than before.

If local option has benefited Shiawassee county to such an extent why should it not continue?

No. 63, second prize.

How Local Option Benefits Shiawassee County

The saloon, as an institution, is, without question the greatest social evil of the time. It brings about not only the ruination of the drinking man and his family, but it is a disgrace to the community in which it exists. It is the breeding place of crime, poverty and vice, depending not only on the drunkard for its support, but luring thousands of young men and boys into its bar room, where the influences are anything but the best.

Local option benefits a county in that it does away with the open saloon and reduces the sale of liquor, making it a thing to be accomplished only in violation of the law.

Statistics prove that there are fewer criminals, less poverty and want in Shiawassee under local option than before, and it is evident that in certain streets where five years ago saloons flourished, respectable business is now carried on. But in order to see the real benefits of local option, one must visit some of the many homes in this county, which tell in the clearest way the happiness that the downfall of the saloon has brought.

No. 64, third prize.

How Does Local Option Benefit Shiawassee County.

Local option benefits Shiawassee county financially and morally.

As to the former, first, the materials used to manufacture liquor may be considered. Chief among these is barley. According to statistics, the barley used for manufacturing liquor would fatten 800,000 head of cattle, thereby benefiting the wage earner, whom otherwise the liquor would harm. Next, the court, penitentiary and prison expenses have been greatly diminished in consequence of the lesser number of criminals. Lastly, near-

ly all the money formerly received by saloons now purchases necessities. This is a direct gain for the laborer. The final result of all of these smaller ones is that the treasury has gained \$25,287, during the four years without saloons. Then we take up the question morally. There is one great and only benefit: The happy, clean environment of the transformed home induces the moral development of the coming generation. In consequence of the increased morality of the home, the city, county and state are uplifted. Combining the benefits financial and moral, there is ultimately one result. While morality is gaining this firmer foothold, money is providing better food, and the two combined are conducive to better health; for impure food, immorality and liquor are the worst enemies of health.

No. 53, fourth prize.

How Does Local Option Benefit Shiawassee County.

Since Shiawassee county has been dry the towns have been progressing.

The poor people that went to town and spent their money for alcoholic drinks are now spending it for the needs of their wives and children. This is a benefit to Shiawassee county.

Some people said that if this county went dry that the business men would fail, but they were greatly mistaken for the business men are making more money and the towns have been growing.

The bank deposits are increasing because the people are saving their money for some future rainy day instead of spending it for liquor.

Since there have been no saloons in the towns there have been less people to the county house from this county, and less people sent to the county jail.

The saloons being closed it has prevented young men who only took a drink once in a while from becoming heavy drinkers.

The farms are being better cared for by the men and boys, who if we had them would be sitting around in saloons and gambling for drink.

If this county could only be dry for thirty years, how much better our people would be morally, mentally and physically.

No Poetry Allowed.

Owosso, March 23.—Admitting that the article from Owosso last week was of sufficient importance to print anyway, yet I notice at the tail end the spasmodic poem was omitted. Locally it was the pith of the entire endeavor. George W. Haskell.

The Tradesman prints poetry on the front cover. It does not print traveling men's poetry in the correspondence received from the fraternity. Traveling men, as a rule, are good business men and good mixers, good husbands and good fellows generally, but they are seldom good poets and, in order to not draw the line between good and bad poets, whose contributions would have to be declined, the Tradesman deems it the part of wisdom to exclude all poetry that originates in the traveling fraternity. We are willing to bail traveling men out of jail. We will loan them money. We will print their pictures and biographies and we will kiss their babies, but we draw the line on their poetry.—Michigan Tradesman.

Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Tower, Rowley street, celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary Thursday. Mrs. Tower is the daughter of David Harmon, one of the earliest settlers of Shiawassee and the owner of the first saw mill in the county, which he conducted in Antrim township. She is 80 years old and quite feeble. Mr. Tower, also a resident of Shiawassee county and vicinity about all of his life, is robust despite his 80 years and walks down town daily from his home, a distance of more than a mile.

Well Begun.

Officer (to recruit who has missed every shot)—Good heavens, man, where are your shots going? Recruit (nervously)—I don't know, sir. They left here, all right.—Exchange.

A Home Talk.

Husband—You can put this down as settled—if I ever get out of it you will never catch me in matrimony again. Wife—You won't if you depend on me for reference.—Exchange.

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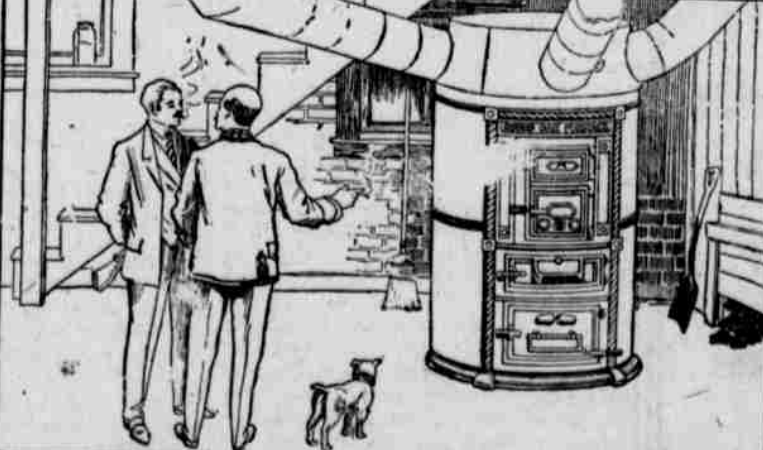
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